

What is claimed is:

1. A vehicle having an infrared lighting system for use with night vision viewing devices, comprising:

a chassis carrying a straddle-type seat, at least one front wheel and at least one rear wheel suspended from the chassis, a handlebar assembly for steering the at least one front wheel, an engine carried by the chassis for powering the vehicle, a switch, an infrared light connected to the vehicle, and non-infrared lights connected to the vehicle including at least one of a headlight, a taillight, and an instrument cluster light, the switch controlling the illumination of the non-infrared lights, and an infrared light switch that controls illumination of the infrared light.

2. The vehicle of claim 1, wherein actuation of the switch extinguishes illumination of the non-infrared lights and activates illumination of the infrared light.

3. The vehicle of claim 2, wherein activation of the infrared light comprises completion of an electrical circuit connecting a vehicle power source and the infrared light.

4. The vehicle of claim 2, wherein extinguishing of the non-infrared lights comprises opening an electrical circuit connecting a vehicle power source and the one or more non-infrared lights.

5. The vehicle of claim 1, wherein the switch is a relay.

6. The vehicle of claim 5, wherein the infrared light switch automatically actuates the switch that controls illumination of the non-infrared lights.

7. The vehicle of claim 1, wherein the switch is manually actuated.

8. The vehicle of claim 1, wherein the infrared light provides illumination of oncoming terrain visible with the use of night vision viewing devices.

9. The vehicle of claim 1, wherein the infrared light illumination replaces the non-infrared light illumination of the oncoming terrain.

10. The vehicle of claim 1, wherein the non-infrared lights produce visible light of wavelengths not primarily in the infrared light spectrum.

11. A vehicle having an infrared lighting system for use with night vision viewing devices, comprising:

a chassis carrying a seat, an engine for powering the vehicle, and an infrared light switch, an infrared light, and one or more non-infrared lights carried by the vehicle, the infrared light switch for controlling the illumination of the non-infrared lights and the infrared lights.

12. The vehicle of claim 11, wherein the infrared light source is detachably mounted to the vehicle.

13. The vehicle of claim 12, wherein the infrared light is tethered to the vehicle and can be used remotely from the vehicle.

14. The vehicle of claim 11, wherein the one or more non-IR lights comprise a high beam light, a low beam light, an instrument cluster, a taillight, and a brake light.

15. The vehicle of claim 14, wherein the one or more non-IR lights is comprised of a dual element light source comprised of a non-IR light element and an infrared light element.

16. The vehicle of claim 11, wherein the infrared light is housed in a waterproof housing.

17. The vehicle of claim 11, wherein the infrared light switch is further comprised of a catch to lock infrared switch in a closed position.

18. The vehicle of claim 11, further comprising a relay electrically connected to the infrared light switch, when the light switch is closed the relay opens a ground switch, which extinguishes the one or more non-IR lights.

19. The vehicle of claim 11, further comprising an engine switch and a key switch electrically connected to the infrared light switch, wherein the infrared light is extinguished when either of the engine switch or the key switch is toggled to an "OFF" position.

20. An ATV having an infrared lighting system comprising:  
an infrared light switch, a lighting assembly having at least one non-IR light source and at least one infrared light source, the infrared light switch being electrically connected to the lighting assembly, when the infrared switch is toggled to an "ON" position electrical power is routed to the at least one infrared light source and power is removed from the at least one non-IR light source.

21. The ATV of claim 20, further comprising a headlight switch electrically connected to the infrared light switch, wherein power cannot be applied to the at least one infrared light source when the headlight switch is in the "OFF" position.

22. The ATV of claim 20, further comprising night vision goggles wirelessly connected to the infrared light switch, wherein the infrared light switch can be activated from said night vision goggles.

23. The ATV of claim 22, wherein the night vision goggles and the infrared light switch are wirelessly connected by radio frequency.

24. The ATV of claim 20, wherein the at least one infrared light source is detachably mounted to the vehicle.

25. The ATV of claim 24, wherein the at least one infrared light source is tethered to the vehicle and can be used remotely from the vehicle.

26. The ATV of claim 20, wherein the at least one non-IR light source comprises a high beam light, a low beam light, an instrument cluster, a taillight, and a brake light.

27. The ATV of claim 26, wherein the at least one non-IR light source is comprised of a dual element light source comprised of a non-IR light element and an infrared light element.

28. The ATV of claim 10, wherein the at least one infrared light source is housed in a waterproof housing.

29. The ATV of claim 20, wherein the infrared light switch is further comprised of a catch to lock infrared switch in closed position.

30. The ATV of claim 20, further comprising a relay electrically connected to the infrared light switch, when the light switch is closed the relay opens a ground switch, which extinguishes the at least one non-IR light source.